

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

2008 AFIS Advisory Committee

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King County Regional AFIS Program Mission

To provide timely, efficient, and quality fingerprint identification services in support of local criminal investigations, through a countywide system linked to state and national fingerprint and criminal history databases.

Acknowledgments

The King County Regional AFIS Program would like to thank each of the individuals who contributed to the AFIS 2008 Annual Report, including supervisors and staff of the various AFIS units and the AFIS Advisory Committee.

A special thanks to each of those individuals who shared their experiences and success stories.

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Message from the Sheriff

The King County Regional Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) Program proudly presents its 2008 Annual Report, which describes the Program's mission, goals, history, achievements, and progress in 2008. It also outlines future initiatives to be accomplished throughout the current 2007-2012 levy period.

The 2008 Annual Report was prepared by the King County Regional AFIS Program in conjunction with the AFIS Advisory Committee. This Committee provides oversight and direction to the Program and is comprised of representatives from King County, the City of Seattle, the City of Bellevue, and King County Suburban Cities. It includes city managers, police chiefs, budget analysts, council staff, and other commissioned and non-commissioned managers.

The fingerprint technology provided by the AFIS Levy continues to serve as an integral crime fighting and prevention tool. While still extremely effective, the current AFIS technology is outdated. In addition to recent upgrades in Livescan technology, a New Generation AFIS will be implemented over the next two years. This new system will provide the added feature of matching and storing "ridge detail" found on the *entire hand*, as opposed to only that found on the first joint of the finger. With this updated technology, King County's citizens and the law enforcement community can expect more cases to be solved through the use of latent prints left at crime scenes!

Technology is only as effective as those who apply it. Due to the high quality standards in effect by the King County Regional AFIS Program, I would like to recognize the fingerprint experts, IT administrators, support staff, police officers and deputies throughout King County who serve as the backbone of this regional program. I commend these individuals for their exceptionally high standards, hard work, and dedication that make this collaborative approach to regional fingerprint services a great success.

The Regional AFIS Program 2008 Annual Report is available on-line through the King County Sheriff's Office website at:

www.kingcounty.gov/safety/sheriff/enforcement/afis.aspx

Sheriff Susan L. Rahr King County Sheriff's Office

Reviewed and Approved by the King County Regional AFIS Advisory Committee

Automated Fingerprint

Identification



"The Kent Police Department would like to express our appreciation for the prompt and professional service that we have received from King County AFIS in several high profile and important investigations to the citizens of King County. Due to our partnership with King County AFIS numerous felons have been identified, arrested and successfully prosecuted.

On one occasion our detectives were investigating a string of residential burglaries and a possible suspect was identified. Kent investigators worked cooperatively with King County and Auburn detectives and a suspect was taken into custody. The initial case was not strong. A call was made to King County AFIS with a request to rush several latent print submissions to compare those taken from burglary scenes to our suspects to strengthen the case. An examiner was immediately assigned to the request and within two days we had the results. The cooperative work of local detectives and King County AFIS resulted in the arrest of three suspects who were responsible for over 70 residential burglaries."

-Lt. Ken Thomas Kent Police Department

History & Services

History

In 1986, the voters of King County approved funding for an Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). The King County Regional AFIS has been operational since March 1988 and has proven to be an invaluable tool in assisting police throughout the county in their identification and apprehension of criminal suspects. Unlike many services provided by individual police agencies, this is a regional service, providing important information-sharing toward greater public safety. In 1992, the King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) Tenprint Unit and Seattle Police Department (SPD) Tenprint Unit went to a 24-hour, 7-day a week operation. AFIS Section Technicians also took over the responsibility of fingerprinting at the King County Jails. Since then, virtually all inmates have been fingerprinted, the quality of the AFIS database has steadily improved, and many more inmates using aliases have been identified prior to release.

The Program's primary functions are:

- Capture fingerprints from subjects
- Store fingerprints in databases
- Search and Identify individuals from fingerprints
- Solve Crimes by identifying prints left at crime scenes
- Establish and maintain criminal history and records of arrest for use by agencies and other jurisdictions

The King County Regional AFIS Advisory Committee continues to provide oversight on the operation and funding of AFIS services in King County. Membership includes representatives from suburban jurisdictions, the City of Seattle, and King County.

Funding

In King County, the Regional AFIS Program is a countywide, levy-funded program that requires voter approval. The AFIS Levy is a regular property tax and is subject to the limitations contained in RCW 84.52.050 which limit the rate of growth in AFIS Levy revenue by one percent plus the prior year's new construction even if assessed values increase at a higher rate. Levy funds are monitored by the Regional AFIS Advisory Committee.

The AFIS Levy provides identification technology and resources that assist in criminal investigations.

The levy rate for 2008 is \$0.0515 (Cost per \$1,000 of assessed valuation of taxable property).



Livescan

The Regional AFIS Program partners with many local law enforcement agencies to obtain fingerprints for the identification of subjects in custody and for the purpose of background checks. To accomplish this, the Program has provided many law enforcement agencies with fingerprint capture devices called Livescan. The Program has also provided the Bellevue Police Department with an AFIS Workstation for remote fingerprint searches. Fingerprints that are captured at Livescan stations around the County are transmitted over a secure network to the KCSO and SPD Tenprint Units for identification, verification of arrest data and submission to the Washington State Patrol (WSP) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

SHERIFF

At the time of arrest, many individuals attempt to hide their true identities to evade warrants or hide criminal pasts. Through the integration of AFIS and Livescan technology, these subjects are identified and the information is sent to the arresting agency in minutes. Fingerprints are retained for identification purposes and for use in comparing against latent prints left at crime scenes. The speed and efficiency of Livescan keeps "liars" in jail, which contributes to safer neighborhoods. With collaborative efforts among the Regional AFIS Program and local law enforcement agencies, King County has developed an effective method of rapid identification through Livescan technology.



The King County Regional AFIS Program supports 39 Livescan devices located at 19 suburban police agencies, 6 KCSO precincts including contract cities, 3 County detention facilities, and SPD. Palm capture is included at the 15 highest volume workstations. In 2008, over 60,000 Livescan records were transmitted throughout King County.





Jail Identification Services

Identification Technicians work primarily in detention facilities, which include the Norm Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent, as well as the King County Correctional Facility and Youth Services Center in Seattle. The primary function of Identification Technicians is to obtain high quality finger and palm print images to expand and improve the county's AFIS database, and to collect these images quickly in order to identify subjects using aliases before they are released from custody. Secondary functions include the collection of booking photos, DNA samples, and applicant fingerprints.

Fingerprints are taken when a subject is booked into a detention facility. Most fingerprints are captured electronically using

Livescan, which replaces the use of fingerprint ink. Technicians roll the subject's fingers on a glass platen where the fingerprint is scanned. A goal of the AFIS Program is to obtain fingerprints for 100% of people booked into a King County detention facility. Once taken, fingerprint images are electronically transmitted to the Tenprint Examiner's office for identification.

In 2008, Jail Identification Technicians started adding photos of all visible tattoos on inmates. Tattoos are saved in the photo database and can aid in identifying a suspect. Investigators find this valuable because a crime victim can often describe a tattoo more easily than describing the appearance of a suspect. Like mugshots, tattoo photos can be used to create suspect montages.



Identification Technicians obtain DNA samples by collecting saliva using a buccal (cheek) swab. Samples are submitted to the WSP Crime Lab where they are coded and entered into a national database. DNA found at crime scenes can be run through the database to locate a suspect.



Tenprint Identification & Information Services

Tenprint Information Specialists support timely and accurate updates to individual's records at WSP and FBI. These records are used for criminal justice investigative purposes, and for the basis of future court dispositions and background checks. In the event the subject does not have a state and federal criminal history, the Tenprint Information Specialist establishes one. Tenprint Information Specialists help ensure that criminal history data

transmitted from county detention facilities is accurate and thorough.

Tenprint Examiners compare fingerprints received from King County detention facilities and other law enforcement agencies to identify individuals. They also receive fingerprints from the courts, private citizens and victims of identity theft to correct records and resolve identity issues. Every fingerprint submission is searched against the AFIS database of over 600,000 records (this equates to six million fingerprints) for identification. Anyone new to AFIS is added to the database for future identification purposes and for comparison against a collection of approximately 33,000 latents prints from previous unsolved crimes.

Good Catch

The Tukwila Police Department arrested a suspect using a false name during a drug sting. A Tenprint Examiner searched the fingerprints, made an identification, and discovered



the suspect was wanted for a double homicide out of Ohio. The examiner called the Tukwila Police Department immediately so the individual could be held for extradition proceedings.

Tenprint Examiners identify deceased persons using fingerprints submitted by the Medical Examiner's Office. They also collect and process fingerprints of unidentified patients at Harborview Medical Center.



Latent Examination Services

A print left by chance on an object is called a latent print because it is usually not visible without special processing (powder or chemicals). Latent Print Examiners combine the use of advanced chemical, optical, photographic, and computerized tools to detect and identify latent prints to the person who left them.

Latent Print Examiners often work with very small areas of ridge detail. A print recovered at a crime scene may be no larger than a pencil eraser. The examiner may receive a suspect name for comparison, but when there are no known suspects AFIS is used to compare the latent against millions of known prints on file. This computer search takes only a few minutes to retrieve candidates. Latent Print Examiners ultimately make the comparison between latent prints and known prints to aid in criminal investigations. Examiners are required to document and support their work through testimony as expert witnesses in a court of law.

On average, 40 percent of the latents searched through AFIS are positively identified, giving the King County Regional AFIS Program one of the highest latent (crime scene) identification rates in the nation. This high success rate is due, in large part, to the exceptional quality of prints taken by the Identification Technicians in the jails.

Latent Print Examiners serve the public in a variety of ways. They assist the Medical Examiner's Office by identifying deceased persons. They also work in conjunction with detectives to process major crime scenes and train officers as well as other AFIS staff in the recovery of latent prints and development techniques.

"Our detectives arrested a suspect in a series of rape cases on June 18th. The suspect was a Level III sex offender and was responsible for at least three rapes and another attempt in the Renton area since November 2007. The latest incident occurred in June 2008 and the Latent Print Examiners came out and processed the victim's vehicle. From the prints obtained in the vehicle, AFIS and the Latent Print Examiners



made a match on the suspect and were able to tell us who the guy was. We are pleased that the suspect is now in jail. The story might not have had the happy ending if it wasn't for the good work of the latent team and the capabilities of AFIS."

Penny Bartley Auxiliary Services Manager Renton Police Department Administrative staff supports the Latent Print Examiners by overseeing the proper intake of evidence and record keeping of latent case files, including their storage and destruction in accordance with the associated statute of limitations. They track data and provide statistical reports to law enforcement as needed.



Photography Services

Both the King County Sheriff's Office and Seattle Police Department Crime Scene Photo Laboratories provide imaging services. These units provide film processing and print production, forensic and crime scene photography, digital services, studio and publicity photography, and training. Although the 2008 AFIS Levy does not fund these units, it provides supplemental funding due to the high volume of latent photography work performed for the AFIS Program.



Program & Project Management, Customer Support & Training

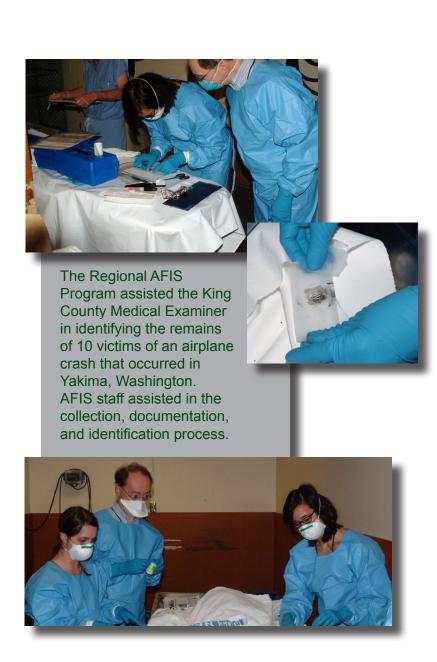
Program management staff oversee the daily operations as well as the acquisitions, budget, maintenance, and use of AFIS and Livescan technology throughout the County. They ensure that all technology and procedures comply with state and national industry standards. Customer Support and Training staff coordinate and provide technical training and help desk support for all AFIS/Livescan customers throughout the County. This workgroup plays an integral part in facilitating communications among KCSO, SPD, and suburban police departments.



A deputy requested a thumb print comparison and report on the findings for a court case where the defendant was a victim of identity theft. With a tenprint examiner's report the charges against the defendant were dismissed. By having a thumb print on the citation, AFIS was able to ID the true criminal and help protect an innocent citizen's identity from being used on a traffic stop.

"I can't thank you enough for your expeditious help. With your report and my documentation, the charges against the defendant, a victim of identity theft, were dismissed. I couldn't have asked for more."

Deputy Steven Moss King County Sheriff's Office



Financial Summary

The Regional AFIS Program is funded by a countywide property tax levy that supports services through 2012. The AFIS Levy is subject to growth limitations contained in RCW 84.52.050. In 2008, the levy collected \$0.0515 per \$1,000 of valuation. On average, homeowners paid a yearly rate of \$19.04 in taxes to support AFIS operations.

The AFIS levy includes funding for existing operations as well as new initiatives. While most of the revenue supports staff who provide identification services, the levy also funds several new technology initiatives. The initiatives worked on in 2008 are explained in more detail on page 12.

AFIS Fund Revenue	Actual Revenue	%Total Revenue
Property (Levy) Taxes	17,307,357	97%
Investment Interest	331,237	2%
Other	119,224	1%
TOTAL REVENUE	17,757,818	100%
AFIS Fund Expense	Actual Expense	%Total Expense
Salaries and Benefits	8,285,707	59%
City of Seattle*	2,982,402	21%
Supplies and Services	2,523,212	18%
Capital Equipment	156,518	1%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	13,947,839	100% (rounded)

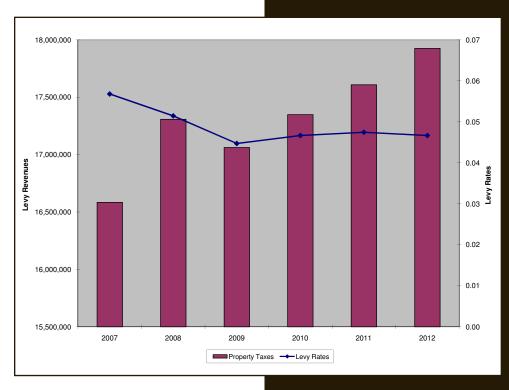
^{*}This number includes salaries, benefits, supplies, and training.

Although total revenue collected exceeded expenditures for 2008, the fund balance will pay for the purchase of the New Generation AFIS and other pending technology initiatives.

The chart to the right forecasts AFIS levy revenues and rates. State law limits the growth of the AFIS levv revenues to a 1% increase plus the prior year's new construction. Given this limitation, AFIS revenues are expected to increase between 1 and 2% per year between 2009 and 2012. If overall property values fall, state law would allow an increase in the levy rate to ensure that the revenues increase by 1% plus new construction. However, the rate can be adjusted downward at the discretion of the King County Executive and King County Council. For example, in 2009 the Executive and Council approved a levy rate decrease of approximately 2/10ths of 1 cent per \$1,000 in assessed value from the maximum allowable rate.

Average Cost to Taxpayers per Year

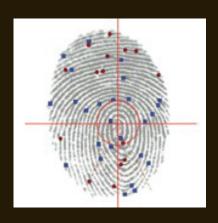
2008	
Median Single Family Assessed Value	\$370,000
Tax	\$19.04



Initiatives & Statistics

Initiatives for 2007 - 2012

- Replace existing AFIS and implement palm print searching
- Upgrade Livescan capture stations and replace central site equipment
- Increase inventory of criminal Livescan fingerprint stations
- Initiate a court identification feasibility study and pilot program
- Establish infrastructure for wireless mobile identification
- Initiate mobile identification pilot program



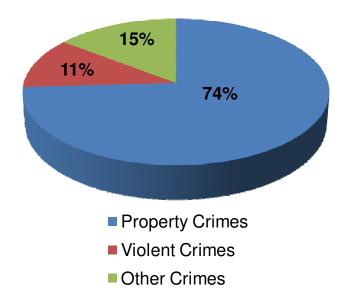
How Far AFIS Has Come	Prior To AFIS Program (1988)	2008
Crime scene prints identified without a known suspect (A total of 21,549 latent fingerprints from unknown subjects have been identified by AFIS since inception in 1988).	<100	1,190
Number of inmates fingerprinted at King County jails	<50%	98%
Average turnaround time from jail booking to identification	2-4 weeks	1 hour
Percent of fingerprints taken and submitted using Livescan capture stations	0%	99%
Value of warrants found as a result of fingerprint identification	\$0	\$1.8 million in warrants 107 "no bail" warrants
Electronic fingerprint search capabilities via networking (On a limited basis, Tenprint and Latent Print Examiners can inquire against millions of fingerprint records at the Western Identification Network (WIN), California Department of Justice, and FBI. WIN is an organization that provides collective AFIS services to eight states: Alaska, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington).	None	Access to over 80 Million

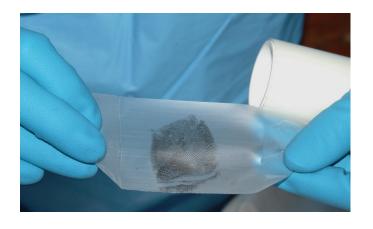
Latent Print Identifications by Crime Category

Violent Crimes			
Assault	22		
Hit & Run	4		
Homicide	26		
Kidnapping	5		
Robbery	54		
Sexual Offense	8		
Property Crimes			
Auto Theft	160		
Commercial Burglary	31		
Residential Burglary	369		
Larceny	91		
Possession of Stolen Property	26		
Vandalism	1		
Vehicle Prowl	48		
Vehicle Recovery	56		
Other Crimes			
Drugs	41		
Eluding	2		
Forgery	49		
Fraud	9		
Harassment	2		
Malicious Mischief	8		
Miscellaneous	25		
Suspicious Circumstance	4		
Threats	2		
Violations Uniform Firearms Act	12		



Percentage of Identification by Crime Category





The fingerprint technology provided by the AFIS Levy continues to serve as an integral crime fighting and prevention tool.



Community Outreach

AFIS employees are involved in the community where they share their skills and knowledge with the citizens of King County. The AFIS Program partners with Science on Patrol, a grant funded program started in 2006. The program allows kids at the elementary and middle school levels to learn about science and police work. At these events AFIS employees host activities to demonstrate the different techniques for processing fingerprints.

The Regional AFIS Program frequently presents at Citizens Academies throughout King County. These academies are held so citizens can learn how law enforcement serves their community and how they can get more involved in protecting their neighborhoods. AFIS staff enjoy the opportunity to share program information directly with citizens.



Program Highlights

New Generation AFIS

The project to procure a New Generation AFIS is still underway. The new system will be more stable, provide increased matching, storage and archive capabilities, and will have the new ability to store and match palm prints. The first half of 2008 was devoted to drafting the technical requirements of the system and defining the scope of work for potential vendors. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was released in July 2008, generating interest and questions from AFIS vendors. The Project Team responded to over 300 technical and procedural inquiries from five vendors before closing the RFP in November and beginning the evaluation process. In 2009, the project will complete the evaluation of proposals, conduct benchmark testing of competitive vendors, select a vendor, and negotiate a contract before heading into the conversion and implementation phase of the project.

Livescan Additions and Upgrades

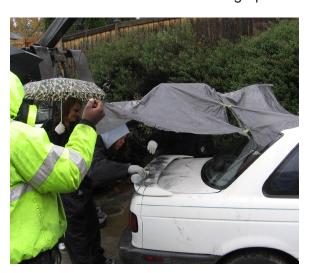
The Regional AFIS Program installed two additional Livescan Units in 2008; one in the City of Woodinville and one in the City of Pacific. King County now has 39 Livescan devices located throughout the County.

The Livescan Central Site replacement project was successfully completed in 2008. This project completely replaced the outdated hardware and software that manages the flow of records from the County's 39 Livescan devices. The project required replacement of existing functionality with newer and more efficient and secure processes. Installation, testing, and training began in August of 2008 and continued until project completion in December. As a result of this project the County will save fifty percent on the annual system maintenance cost for this system.

Auto Theft Initiative

AFIS assists with this initiative by processing vehicles for latent fingerprints. The assistance from AFIS resulted in several fingerprint

matches to suspects on file. In order for AFIS to respond to a larger number of auto theft callouts an inhouse training program was implemented. Through this intensive training program, Tenprint Examiners and Identification Technicians are able to assist Latent Print Examiners to process evidence from crime scenes and auto thefts.



Success Stories

Great Teamwork Brings Resolution to a Tragic Situation

On April 8, 2008, three King County Latent Print Examiners were called out to a homicide investigation in Kent. After arriving at the scene and consulting

with detectives the examiners learned that the adult male victim had been stabbed to death, with the body found in the garage. The suspected weapon was a steak knife. Some items were



missing from the home and the victim's person. There was blood throughout the home and shoe impressions on several places of the floor. Some of the shoe prints appeared in blood.

The AFIS Latent Team used several different techniques to obtain fingerprint evidence. Lifts were made of the shoe impressions on the floor and two King County Sheriff's Office photographers took photos to preserve the evidence. The lifts of the shoe impressions were provided to the detectives.

Later at the Processing Lab an examiner developed and photographed a bloody fingerprint on the suspected murder weapon. The photograph of the fingerprint was taken to the Latent Lab office and was identified to fingerprints from a previous arrest of the suspect.

An examiner provided the identification information to the detectives who used that information to arrest the suspect, search her apartment, and recover the shoes that matched the bloody shoe impressions taken from the victim's home.



Help for an Identity Theft Victim

A King County officer was a victim of identity theft. Even though the guilty party was already convicted and sentenced on stealing the officer's identity, using his name in criminal endeavors, the officer was still being linked to having a criminal history. The officer was unable to obtain a passport and other things because background checks popped up with his name and identity linked to a criminal history. With the help of AFIS the officer's record was cleared with the FBI.



Murder-for-Hire Plot Solved

This case started with a callout for a carjacking/homicide. Two Latent Print Examiners went on the callout and processed the vehicle including the gun box that was later determined to be the box of the murder weapon.

Two Latent Examiners processed the trunk. They worked together to lift prints with one examiner actually getting into the trunk. They were able to recover the only print identified to the suspect from the support bar in the trunk.

The examiner on the case identified the prints of the mother and son on the gun box and the prints of the son and the alleged shooter on the inside of the trunk.

The mother pleaded guilty after the gun was found and a witness had come forward. The son was found guilty and sentenced to 25 years. In the son's trial the actual vehicle was brought into the courtroom and the examiner who processed the car crawled into the trunk to show just how far in the trunk the alleged shooter's print was developed. The alleged shooter pleaded guilty as charged to murder in the first degree with a firearm and was sentenced to 25 years.



Braving the elements to search for fingerprints on a recovered stolen vehicle

A Little Creativity Goes a Long Way

On November 12, 2008, AFIS received a call from an officer with the Kent Police Department to process a stolen vehicle that had been found. The vehicle had been stolen the night before. The fuel was drained from the tank and the car was pushed down an incline and landed on the sidewalk.

Shortly before the team of examiners arrived at the scene it started raining very hard. The officer used garbage bags to cover the prints on the vehicle. Since it was raining, conventional powder methods could not be used; instead, the team used Wet Print™ which can be applied on wet surfaces.

Because there was so much rain, the Wet Print™ was washed off before it had a chance to remain on the vehicle. The tow truck driver, called to the scene, and the Kent police

officer used additional sheets of plastic to devise an awning. This allowed the team to stand underneath the sheets and apply the chemical without it washing off from the rain. The inside of the car was processed and the awning allowed the team to get inside the car without having a large amount of rain inside.

Four latent lifts were obtained from outside the car. One of the lifts had value for identification. Thanks to the help of the tow truck driver and the Kent Police Officer this was a successful fingerprint recovery.



"I would like to express my appreciation for the ongoing help and cooperation I have received from AFIS staff. It is obvious we are all on the same team!

For the past six months I have been working on a series of burglaries in the rural areas of Southeast King County. There are usually no witnesses so our only evidence to tie suspects to the crimes are fingerprints. In a few of those burglaries AFIS staff was requested for processing. I realize in the big picture burglaries have a low priority, but the technicians are always

helpful and energetic. In addition, whenever I call the AFIS staff they are consistently helpful and supportive. At times I think I must be giving the Latent Administrative staff a headache with all my questions, but they never show any frustration or aggravation and are always happy to help.

I would also like to commend the Identification Technicians for their continued help and cooperation. In many of my cases, major case prints are needed. When I call the jail, the AFIS staff are very helpful. They routinely notify me when requests have been completed and relay any comments the inmates may have made. Great customer service!"



Detective David Zanghi
King County Sheriff's Office - Precinct 3

Future Goals

2009 Goals

New Generation AFIS

- Complete benchmark testing of competitive vendors
- Select a vendor and negotiate a contract
- Begin conversion and implementation phase

Palm Print Preparation

As of the beginning of 2009, the Regional AFIS Program started to retain electronic copies of all incoming palm prints in preparation of creating a new palm database. The conversion of existing inked (non-electronic) palm prints is expected to begin in late 2009. Palm AFIS will increase the number of latent hits, solving more crimes.

Livescan High Definition Upgrade

Upgrade all Livescan stations to capture fingerprint images at 1,000 pixels per inch (ppi) with high definition scanners.

Court Identification Study

Conduct a study to research the costs and benefits to the regional criminal justice system of adding a court fingerprinting practice for misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor subjects cited and released in the field without being fingerprinted. With these fingerprints added to the AFIS Database, hit rates will increase.



The King County Regional AFIS Program has made great technological advancements in recent years, and with each step comes closer to its ultimate goal: providing the fastest and most accurate identification services possible for the safety of its officers and its communities.

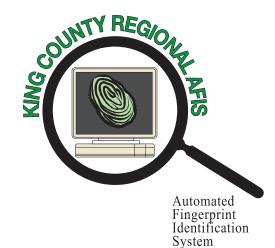




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SPD Latent Print Unit	206.648.5510
Jail ID Unit	206.296.1319
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SPD Photo Lab	206.684.5756
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